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made arrangements so that the four volumes may follow one another in rapid succession."

The English edition is not all that one might wish, for the reader who is sensitive either to good English or to good French will find much to pardon. Such slipshod phraseology as "woken up" (p. 5), "notoriety" used for fame (pp. 53 and 64), "He (Bismarck) was always on deck" (p. 115) are examples of the loose parlance that abounds. There is a curious literalness also in the translation of French abstract terms, for the translator continually translates the article with the noun; *e. g.*, "*the* democracy," when speaking of democracy as a principle of government.

JAMES WESTFALL THOMPSON.

University of Chicago,

Autobiography of Seventy Years. By GEORGE F. HOAR. With portraits. Two volumes. Pp. ix, 434, and viii, 493. Price, \$7.50. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1903.

Ex-Senator George F. Edmunds is reputed to have once credited Senator Hoar with being one of the half dozen men who did the whole work of the Senate. However this may be, Senator Hoar's continuous service in the Senate exceeds in length that of any other man now living, and he has represented Massachusetts in the Senate for a longer period than any of the other great men who have served that ancient Commonwealth in the Upper House. For thirty-six years he has been a member of one or the other House of Congress, and almost from his first entrance into the Senate he has occupied a position of leadership among the able men of that distinguished body. During twenty-two of his twenty-seven years in the Senate, he has been a member of the Judiciary Committee, and during about half of the time he has served as its chairman. The personal recollections of few public men, therefore, should be more entertaining and instructive than those of Senator Hoar. Of the volumes under review it truly can be said, that so far as genuine entertainment is concerned, they hardly can be excelled by the reminiscences of any of our public men. Senator Hoar's style has a certain charm about it that never fails to hold the interest of the reader. He possesses a rich fund of anecdotes which is frequently drawn upon to enliven the pages of his story, while his abundant illustrations from the classics give evidence of his wide reading and scholarship.

But to the serious student the autobiography is not all that could be wished for. It does not begin to approach Grant's *Memoirs* in compactness, information and dignity, while it falls below some of the latter military reminiscences in one or the other of these qualities. Trivial incidents and personal references, despite the author's disclaimer that he is not a vain man, abound altogether too frequently. Irrelevant matter, such as is found in the chapters on the "Saturday Club," the "Worcester Fire Society," the "Forest of Dean," etc., still further swells the compass of the "autobiography." Here and there chapters not exceeding two pages in amount and dealing with unimportant incidents are thrown in, thus giving the story a scrappy appearance.

The most valuable features of the autobiography are the portraits of public men whom Senator Hoar has known. The more important of these are found in the chapters, entitled "Some Judges I have Known," "Some Orators I have Heard," "Some Southern Senators," and "Leaders of the Senate in 1877." It is somewhat surprising to note the high estimate which he has placed upon some of the Southern leaders whom he has known but always opposed uncompromisingly. Thus a whole chapter, entitled "President Cleveland's Judges," is in fact devoted to an appreciation of Justice L. Q. C. Lamar. Among Republican leaders Webster, Sumner, Chase and Henry Wilson are the subjects of extended eulogy. Conkling, he thinks, was not the equal of either Blaine, Sherman or Carl Schurz. Only in dealing with General Butler does the venerable Senator lose his moderation. An entire chapter is devoted to Butler's "record" and a severe judgment passed upon his public character. Aside from portraits of public men there is an excellent chapter on Harvard sixty years ago; there are also chapters on "Four National Conventions," the "Credit Mobilier," the "Foundation of the Republican Party," the "Political History of Massachusetts," and many others of less importance.

J. W. GARNER

Lavisse: *Histoire de France*, Tome V, Part 1, *Les Guerres d'Italie—La France sous Charles VIII., Louis XII. et François Ier* (1492-1547). Par HENRY LEMONNIER. Pp. 394. Price, 6 fr. Paris: Hachette, 1903.

Lavisse: *Histoire de France*, Tome V, 2, *La Lutte contre la maison d'Autriche. La France sous Henri II.* (1519-1559). Par HENRY LEMONNIER. Pp. 380. Price, 6 fr. Paris: Hachette, 1904.

The co-operative *Histoire de France* has reached the sixteenth century. In Part I of Volume V, M. Lemonnier describes the evolution in politics, administration and intellectual life from 1492 to 1547. About one-third of the volume is taken up by the Italian wars, which brought France into contact with all Europe. Excellent chapters describe the growth of centralism and absolutism. A large space relatively (about one-quarter of the volume) is devoted to the intellectual evolution. Finally, there is a compact account of the beginnings of the Reformation movement in France.

The transformation from feudal conditions is clearly marked in the government, in the finances, in the formation of the new nobility. In the Church, too, the Concordat of 1516 brought about a great change from mediæval conditions. As a whole, the volume gives the impression of rapid evolution in all the spheres of national activity.

The economic situation under Francis I., the new literary and artistic movements, and the character of some of the chief actors, are especially well portrayed. Instead of being a confused mass of material, relating, sometimes to the political life, sometimes to the wars, sometimes to the intellectual and religious phases of the time, M. Lemonnier has succeeded in producing a well-proportioned narrative, in which each subject is described briefly but satisfactorily. He has paid greater attention than the authors of the preceding parts to the fine arts and to pedagogy.